In the Specification:

Please replace the same-numbered paragraphs in the application with the amended paragraphs below. Deletions are shown in strike-out text or double brackets and additions are underlined. No new matter has been added in amending the paragraphs.

[0008] The foregoing problems are solved and a technical advance is achieved in a rigid extractor useful for capturing and extracting, retrieving or removing objects such as stones and calculi from the human body, and from kidneys in particular. Of course, the device is not limited to human bodies, but may also be used in veterinary applications. One embodiment is an extractor for removing an object from a location within a body. The extractor comprises an inner cannula, and at least one superelastic wire leg attached to the inner cannula. The extractor also comprises at least one superelastic wire loop attached to the inner cannula, and means for restricting relative movement of the at least one wire loop and the at least one wire leg, the movement restricting means being continuously and kinklessly formed with at least one of the at least one wire leg and the at least one wire loop, wherein the at least one superelastic wire leg, the at least one superelastic wire loop, and the means for restricting relative movement form a reversibly collapsible, ~~tipless,~~ atraumatic basket. The extractor also comprises a rigid outer cannula for delivering the basket to the location of the object.

[0009] Another embodiment of the invention is a rigid extractor for removing an object within a body. The extractor comprises an inner cannula, and [[a]] an atraumatic basket made of wires attached to the inner cannula. The extractor also comprises a rigid outer cannula for delivering the atraumatic basket to the object, the rigid outer cannula containing the inner cannula, and a handle having a first end and a second end, the first end attached to the outer cannula and the second end attached to the inner cannula. Another embodiment comprises a method for removing an object from a body. The method comprises forming a passage with at least one of a needle, a wire guide, and an access sheath. The

PAGE 3/13 * RCVD AT 10/12/2005 12:43:18 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/26 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:13123214299 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-58

method then comprises inserting a rigid extractor near the object, and extending [[a]] an atraumatic basket from the rigid extractor and maneuvering the atraumatic basket near the object. The method then comprises capturing the object with the atraumatic basket, and removing the object from the body.

[0041] The rigid extractor with ~~tipless,~~ atraumatic, shape-memory basket may be used with a nephroscope, as mentioned above, or it may also be used directly, with a fluoroscope to aid the surgeon in manipulating the extractor to find, encircle, and remove a kidney stone or other object within a body. The method is preferably used after lithotripsy, in which the kidney stones are reduced in size by the application of sound energy, laser energy, electro-hydraulic energy, or other outside source of energy to reduce the stones in size. In one method of using the extractor, a needle is inserted below the 12th rib of a patient. A wire guide is inserted into the region of interest, and the opening is dilated sequentially by a series of small but increasingly larger tubes. In this manner, a final tube up to 26 Fr to 30 Fr may be used. If desired, an access sheath, such as a PTFE access sheath, may be subsequently inserted and the dilation tube removed. The rigid extractor is then inserted through the access sheath. As mentioned above, nephroscopy and a nephroscope may be used instead of fluoroscopy.

PAGE 4/13 * RCVD AT 10/12/2005 12:43:18 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/26 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:13123214299 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-58